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LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HON.

HENRY DUNDASS,

SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE

HOME DEPARTMENT,

BY THE

LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY,

UNITED FOR THE

PURPOSE OF OBTAINING

A REFORM IN PARLIAMENT.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

LONDON:

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1792.

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A LETTER, &c.

LONDON, *4th December*, 1792.
No. 10, *High-Street, Marybone.*

SIR,

HONOURED with, and happy in the confidence, of a number of my countrymen, at their requeſt I tranſmit *officially* to his Majeſty's Miniſters two Addreſſes joined in one, containing together the reaſons why we have aſſociated for a Parliamentary Reform, and the legal and peaceable methods by which we hope to obtain it. So ſanctioned, I muſt alſo inform you, that this letter and thoſe addreſſes equally ſpeak the ſentiments of ſome thouſands of induſtrious citizens in this capital, and

of a far greater number diſperſed throughout the iſland; there being not a ſingle corner of it—rotten boroughs excepted—but cries aloud for reform.

Confiding in the juſtice of our claim, in the merits of our peaceable demeanour, and our ready obedience to all the laws of our country, we imagine ourſelves clear from all charge or imputation of ſedition, rebellion, conſpiracy, or treaſon; and that in purſuing what no one can deny to be our right, we are entitled to every protection and ſupport of government.

I, therefore, in behalf of my fellow Citizens, this day call upon the King's Miniſters to protect and uphold us in the purſuit of our Conſtitutional Rights; and require that, in future, our lawful and well-regulated Aſſemblies, may be no more diſturbed or interrupted by the ſaucy interference of uſurped authority—by men unnamed working with threats upon the fears of uninformed publicans, and boaſting SECRET ORDERS and WARRANTS, as though Britain was fallen under a deſpotic government, and liable to be ruled, not by laws, but by proclamations, and to be ſubſervient to miniſterial dictates, written

ten on a drum head, and proclaimed by the mouth of the cannon.

Equally known by his activity as by his knowledge of the laws, an *honeſt* Magiſtrate, whoſe ſpies had well informed him of the nature of our meetings, has acknowledged that they were peaceable, innocent, and conſtitutional; and further, admits the neceſſity of a reform. At your hands, Sir, I therefore demand juſtice and protection for the Society, againſt all ruffians, who, let looſe on the Public, have dared, or ſhall henceforth dare, like the ſatellites of ancient ſanguinary tyrants, aſſume to themſelves the double office of making laws and executing them.

Certain that ſuch an iniquitous ſyſtem cannot originate in a Britiſh Cabinet, we exclaim, May perdition light equally upon ſuch vile miſcreants and their employers!

Were we, according to the hackneyed cuſtom, to recur to precedents, we ſhould ſay, that Mr. Pitt, and the Duke of Richmond have, themſelves, traced out the path we now purſue; that they themſelves have aſſerted the right of Britons to a fair, equal, and adequate repreſentation in Parliament; that they themſelves had invited us to aſſociate and diſcuſs

cuſs our rights; and, we might add, that in ſo doing they ſpoke and acted like honeſt men——They were not then in office.

But the Rights of the People being ever the ſame, ſuch precedents, and ſuch ſupporters, are ſuperfluous. However, as things ſeen through the medium of Power, have a very different aſpect from what they wore when thoſe worthy gentlemen were on the other ſide of the queſtion, it is not altogether improbable that ſeverities may be had recourſe to, to quell that deſire for reform which they themſelves have raiſed. Should that be the caſe, I beg it as a favor, or rather, being in the foremoſt rank, I claim it as my right, that the attack may commence upon me. Whenever extraordinary meaſures may be adopted, I earneſtly wiſh to be the firſt of the Society in feeling the effects of them; and ſhall deem it not a proud, but an honourable day, in which I ſhall be called upon to plead the cauſe of my fellow Citizens againſt oppreſſion.

Claiming protection, I have a right to your anſwer, either to refuſe or to grant it; in either caſe it ſhall be made public, as ſhall alſo your ſilence, ſhould you not attend to this letter, expreſſing the requeſt of ſeveral thou-

ſand Citizens.——Our Country ſhall then judge us both.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

(Signed) *M. MARGAROT.*

Chairman of the Committee of the London Correſponding Society, united with a view of obtaining a THOROUGH *Parliamentary Reform.*

HENRY DUNDASS, Eſq.

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THE foregoing Letter was put into the General Poſt-Office on the 5th of December, by three of the Delegates of the Society, and a *receipt* taken from the Clerk of its having been delivered; no doubt, therefore, can remain of its having been long in the poſſeſſion of the Honourable Secretary.

The Committee obſerving that ten days have elapſed without any reply being made to their moderate requeſt; and conſidering that ſuch time was fully ſufficient, had any anſwer been intended, have ordered this publication.

Should the King's Miniſters ever find it neceſſary to attend to the complaints of the People, the Committee will expect an anſwer. When that ſhall be the caſe, they pledge themſelves to make it Public. In the mean time, they are determined not to ſlacken, but to continue, with increaſed and increaſing vigilance, their endeavours to obtain juſtice for their Country; not doubting but that in doing this, they will receive the firm and determined ſupport of the people.

December 15th, 1792.